

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PHNOM 01954 091101Z

13

ACTION EA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 PRS-01 /005 W

----- 114069

O R 090938Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4900

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

SECDEF WASHDC

UNCLAS PHNOM PENH 1954

USINFO ALSO FOR VOA NEWSROOM

USINPBNJLSO FOR IEA

BANGKOK FOR HEDGES

BANGKOK AND SAIGON FOR VOA CORRESPONDENTS

STATE S/PRS AND EA/P

CAMBODIAN SITUATIONER

1. ESTIMATED SEVEN - TEN THOUSAND KHMERS LEAVE COMMUNIST-
CONTROLLED AREA:

A. INFORMATION REACHING PHNOM PENH FROM RELIABLE SOURCES IN
THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF KOMPONG THOM INDICATES THAT A MAJOR
MOVEMENT OF KHMER VILLAGERS AND FARMERS OUT OF A COMMUNIST-
CONTROLLED AREA NORTHEAST OF THAT CITY IS NOW UNDERWAY. AS
OF FEBRUARY 7, AN ESTIMATED SEVEN TO TEN THOUSAND MEN, WOMEN
AND CHILDREN HAVE ARRIVED IN KOMPONG THOM, BRINGING WITH THEM
MANY CATTLE, FAMILY POSSESSIONS AND AS MUCH RICE AS THEY CAN CARRY.

B. THE CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICE HAS INITIATED A CRASH PROGRAM
OF RELIEF SUPPLIES FOR THE REFUGEES. A MEDICAL TEAM OF THE
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS IS ALSO SURVEYING THEIR
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PHNOM 01954 091101Z

HEALTH NEEDS. GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES IN KOMPONG THOM HAVE SET

ASIDE A LARGE AREA OF LAND FOR TEMPORARY HOMES AND GARDENS.

C. THE MOVEMENT OF THE PEASANTS BEGAN AFTER LOCAL FANK UNITS CARRIED OUT A RAPID THREE-DAY SWEEP INTO AN AREA TWENTY KILOMETERS NORTH OF KOMPONG THOM WHERE COMMUNIST MILITARY CONTROL HAD BEEN WEAKENED BY THE DIVERSION OF COMMUNIST TROOPS TO TAKE PART IN THE DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE AGAINST PHNOM PENH.

D. RECENT REFUGEE AND RALLIER REPORTS FROM THE AREA HAD INDICATED STRONG PEASANT OPPOSITION TO COMMUNIST POPULATION CONTROL BY MEANS OF COMMUNALIZATION OF HARVEST PRODUCTION AND LIVESTOCK. OTHER REPORTS HAD REVEALED A POLICY OF COMMUNIST THREATS TO TAKE REPRISALS AGAINST PEASANTS WHO RETURNED OR WISHED TO RETURN TO GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED AREAS.

E. THE SECURITY AFFORDED BY THE ARRIVAL OF FANK UNITS APPARENTLY TRIGGERED THE PEASANTS' DECISION TO TEMPORARILY ABANDON THEIR HOMES AND SEEK REFUGE IN GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED KOMPONG THOM. EXPERIENCED OBSERVERS IN PHNOM PENH VIEW THEIR DECISION AS EVIDENCE OF COMMUNIST FAILURE TO WIN THEIR ALLEGIANCE, AND A DEMONSTRATION OF THEIR CONFIDENCE IN THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES.

2. FIGHTING ON FRIDAY IN THE AREA OUTSIDE OF PHNOM PENH FOLLOWED THE PATTERN OF THE PAST WEEK. MOST OF THE FIGHTING TOOK PLACE SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST OF THE CITY WHERE GOVERNMENT FORCES CONTINUED TO MAKE PROGRESS IN THEIR EFFORTS TO REINFORCE AND EXPAND PHNOM PENH'S OUTER DEFENSE PERIMETER. CONTACTS WERE LIGHT NORTHWEST OF THE CITY.

3. FANK ELEMENTS LINKED UP YESTERDAY AT PREK PRA SIX KILOMETERS SOUTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH. THIS COMPLETED A WEEK-LONG OPERATION DESIGNED TO SECURE A KEY AREA IN THE CITY'S DEFENSES BETWEEN THE TONLE-BASSAC AND MEKONG RIVERS. GOVERNMENT FORCES IN THE OPERATION YESTERDAY KILLED FIVE COMMUNIST SOLDIERS IN A NIGHT AMBUSH AND TOOK LIGHT CASUALTIES DURING AN ATTACK-BY-FIRE.

4. IN THE TWO WEEK-NONG BATTLE FOR CONTROL OVER THE KEY PREK THNAOT DEFENSE LINE DUE SOUTH OF PHNOM PENH, FANK UNITS ON THE NORTH BANK OF THE RIVER GAINED LITTLE GROUND IN FACE OF HEAVY COMMUNIST RESISTANCE. GOVERNMENT FORCES ADVANCED, HOWEVER, YESTERDAY ON THE SOUTH BANK FIFTEEN KILOMETERS SOUTH OF PHNOM PENH AND REPORT KILLING UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 PHNOM 01954 091101Z

FIFTY-FIVE COMMUNIST SOLDIERS AND CAPTURING FORTY-THREE INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS AND SEVEN 30 CALIBER MACHINE GUNS DURING THE PAST TWO DAYS. FANK ALSO REPORTED KILLING AN ESTIMATED TWENTY-FOUR COMMUNISTS IN A NIGHT AMBUSH NEAR KOMPONG TOUL, FOURTEEN KILOMETERS SOUTH OF PHNOM PENH.

5. ELSEWHERE IN THE REPUBLIC, COMMUNIST ELEMENTS WEST OF THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF KOMPONG SPEU CONTINUE TO HOLD AN EIGHT

KILOMETER STRETCH OF ROUTE 4 CONNECTING PHNOM PENH WITH THE SEAPORT OF KOMPONG SOM. AT THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF KOMPONG CHAM NORTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH A SLIGHT INCREASE IN COMMUNIST GROUND AND ATTACKS-BY-FIRE RESULTED IN LIGHT FANK AND CIVILIAN CASUALTIES.

6. SMALL, INTERMITTENT COMMUNIST ATTACKS YESTERDAY AT KAMPOT ON THE COAST CAUSED LIGHT DAMAGE AND FEW CASUALTIES. FOUR PERSONS WERE WOUNDED IN SIX COMMUNIST ATTACKS-BY-FIRE AT SIEM REAP.
ENDERS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECURITY, REFUGEES, COMBAT OPERATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PHNOM01954
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740243/aaaabopy.tel
Line Count: 124
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 FEB 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 FEB 2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <27 NOV 2002 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PFOR, CB
To: n/a
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005